

Beverly A. H. Buscemi, Ph.D.

State Director

David A. Goodell

Associate State Director

Operations

Kathi K. Lacy, Ph.D.

Associate State Director

Policy

Thomas P. Waring

Associate State Director

Administration



3440 Harden Street Ext (29203)
PO Box 4706, Columbia, South Carolina 29240

V/TTY: 803/898-9600

Toll Free: 888/DSN-INFO

Website: www.ddsn.sc.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Advocates, Providers and DDSN Staff

FROM: Beverly A. H. Buscemi, Ph.D.
State Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beverly A. H. Buscemi, Ph.D.", written over the printed name and title.

RE: DDSN Budget Update

DATE: May 27, 2011

This week the Senate finalized their budget for fiscal year 2011-2012! The Senate **appropriated \$35 million in recurring state funds** to the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs' state funding base. As I have stressed before, it is so very important that the money being appropriated is in the recurring funds base versus one-time funds as this means that the funds are recurring each fiscal year. The Senate also appropriated \$11 million in non-recurring funds in addition to the recurring \$35 million. Together these appropriations will allow the agency to continue existing services. This is great news!

The DDSN Commission and I, as State Director, commend the Senate and offer our gratitude. We gladly acknowledge their leadership and strong support for the agency's services. Clearly, services for individuals with disabilities and their families were given highest priority. The designation of an additional \$35 million to the recurring state funding base of DDSN and the additional non-recurring funding for the upcoming fiscal year is a clear statement reflecting the dedication of legislators to people with disabilities and special needs and essential services they receive. We are very grateful for their support.

Please take a minute to write members of the Senate to thank them for their outstanding support and dedication to DDSN and the services provided across the state. Special appreciation and recognition are well deserved by Committee Chairman Senator Hugh Leatherman and Health Subcommittee members, Senator Thomas Alexander (Chairman), Senator Billy O'Dell, and Senator Clementa Pinckney.

I am excited to be able to share this wonderful news! By continuing to work together-families, advocates, providers, DDSN Commission and staff-we can enjoy a successful partnership with members of the General Assembly to benefit people with disabilities.

CC: DDSN Commission

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P.O. Box 239
Clinton, SC 29325-5328
Phone: (864) 938-3497

DISTRICT I

Midlands Center - Phone: 803/935-7500
Whitten Center - Phone: 864/833-2733

9995 Miles Jamison Road
Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: 843/832-5576

DISTRICT II

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